

Message Text

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43

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU, US

SUBJECT: TRANSIT OF AUSTRIA BY PLIOUCHTCH

1. DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING ARRIVAL JANUARY 9 AND ONE-DAY

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STAY IN VIENNA BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR PARIS OF SOVIET

DISSIDENT MATHEMATICIAN LEONID PLIOUCHTCH WERE GIVEN EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE IN AUSTRIA. PLIOUCHTCH, WHO WAS QUERIED BY PRESS AFTER TRAIN ARRIVAL AT AUSTRO/CZECH BORDER, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO ALL THOSE WHO AIDED HIM IN "LEAVING SOVIET UNION AND REACHING FREEDOM IN WEST."

2. PLIOUCHTCH'S WIFE, WHO SPOKE AT PRESS CONFERENCE HOSTED BY AUSTRIAN BRANCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LATER SAME DAY, TOLD KAFKAESQUE TALE OF PLIOUCHTCH'S NOT BEING INFORMED BY SOVIETS OF HIS ULTIMATE DESTINATION UPON HIS RELEASE FROM PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE AND OF HIS EXPRESSIONS OF DISBELIEF OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HIM UNTIL HIS ACTUAL ARRIVAL IN AUSTRIA. WIFE MADE POINTS, (1) THAT ONLY THROUGH EFFORTS OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN WEST WAS SOVIET UNION FINALLY MOVED TO RELEASE HER HUSBAND AND (2) THAT AFTER HIS RECUPERATION PLIOUCHTCH WOULD AGAIN TAKE UP CUDGELS ON BEHALF OF IMPRISONED SOVIET DISSIDENTS.

3. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION BY THREE PSYCHIATRISTS, INCLUDING WELL-KNOWN AUSTRIAN DR. SLUEGA, REPORTEDLY INDICATED REACTIONS TYPICAL OF PERSON OF NORMAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH WHO HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO MASSIVE DOSES OF MIND-ALTERING DRUGS OVER PERIOD OF TIME. SLUEGA WAS QUOTED IN AUSTRIAN RADIO AND TV THAT IN HIS VIEW PLIOUCHTCH HAD HAD NO NEED OF SUCH TREATMENT AND THAT PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT GIVEN PLIOUCHTCH WAS COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO MEDICAL PRACTICES IN WEST. EXAMINATION FOUND PLIOUCHTCH MENTALLY SOUND BUT WEAK AND REQUIRING REST.

4. AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PAPER OF JANUARY 11 MADE BEST OF BAD MEDIA SITUATION BY CHARGING PLIOUCHTCH'S RECEPTION COMMITTEE, WHICH IT SAID "COMPOSED OF AUSTRIAN RADIO AND TV TO CIA." WITH "ENGAGING IN ORGY OF MANIPULATION" WHICH, AS HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED, TOOK FORM OF ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA. COUNTERPOSED WITH FOREGOING COMMENTARY WERE QUOTATIONS FROM TASS STATEMENT THAT PLIOUCHTCH HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY ARRESTED FOR "ESPECIALLY SERIOUS CRIME AGAINST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE" (NOT FURTHER DESCRIBED) AND THAT IN COURSE OF HIS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION HE HAD BEEN FOUND IN NEED OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT BY COMPETENT MEDICAL AUTHORITIES.BUCHANAN

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